Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ABF-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 TRSE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 /045 W
----------221821Z 071613 /43
P 221555Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3620
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
OSAF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
F-16 CASEUR BRUSSELS BE

UNCLAS OSLO 1942

SECDEF FOR DSAA/ISA; USCINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7; AMEMBS FOR ODC'S;

HQ ASD FOR YP/YPX

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, NO
SUBJECT: SECOND GAO F-16 REPORT

1. THE NORWEGIAN F-16 PROJECT OFFICER INFORMED THE CHIEF ODC THIS MORNING THAT AT LAST WEEK'S F-16 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT A SECOND GAO REPORT ON THE F-16 IS PLANNED FOR RELEASE ABOUT 6 MAY HE STATED THAT THE EPG AGREED AT THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING TO ASK GAO TO DELAY THE REPORT UNTIL THE GAO HAD VISITED THE EPG'S. THE EPG AGREED AS WELL TO REQUEST THAT GAO VISIT THE FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THE FIRST PART OF MAY, HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH DEFENSE AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS, PROVIDE ADVANCE DRAFT COPIES TO THE EPG'S FOR COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS, AND INCLUDE ANY EPG COMMENT ON AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT AS ADDENDUM
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TO THE REPORT.

2. IN VIEW OF THE WIDESPREAD NEGATIVE REACTION OCCASIONED BY THE FIRST GAO F-16 REPORT AND THE CRITICAL TIMING WITH RESPECT TO ONGOING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES ON THE F-16 BILLS, THIS POST CONCURS IN AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THE PROCEDURE SUGGESTED ABOVE BE FOLLOWED.

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DELAYING THE GAO REPORT WOULD NOT ONLY PERMIT
THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES TO BE CONDUCTED MORE
DELIBERATELY AND OBJECTIVELY, BUT THE VISIT AND DISCUSSIONS
WITH HOST COUNTRY DEFENSE AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS WOULD
ALLOW FOR A MORE COMPLETE AND COMPREHENSIVE GAO REPORT
WHEN COMPLETED.

3. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ADVISED BY NORWEGIAN AND G.D.
SOURCES THAT AVIATION WEEK MAGAZINE HAS OBTAINED A DRAFT
COPY OF THE SECONG GAO REPORT AND WILL FEATURE THE
REPORT IN THE ISSUE TO BE RELEASED ON MONDAY, 25 APR 77.
IF TRUE, THE ARTICLE COULD NOT APPEAR AT A WORSE TIME FOR
NORWAY. NORWEGIAN PARLIMENTARY DEBATE ON THE F-16
AUTHORIZATION BILL IS TO BEGIN TUESDAY MORNING. THE
AVIATION WEEK ARTICLE IS BOUND TO LEAD TO FURTHER CONFUSION
AND MISUNDERSTANDING AND PROVIDE EXCELLENT GRIST FOR THE
OPPOSITIONS MILL.

4. EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE AVIATION WEEK ARTICLE,
IF IT APPEARSN BE MET WITH A SIMULTANEOUS STATEMENT FROM
THE GAO THAT THEIR FINAL REPORT WILL NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL
THE EPG COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN VISITED AS SUGGESTED ABOVE.
IF THIS APPROACH IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, THEN GAO SHOULD
BE PREPARED TO MAKE A STATEMENT CLARIFYING ANY ERRORS OR
MISINTERPRETATIONS WHICH MAY APPEAR IN THE AVIATION WEEK
ARTICLE, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ITS PUBLICATION.
NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS FEEL THAT A STATEMENT BY THE GAO
ITSELF IS THE ONLY VALID COUNTER THEY CAN US IN
REFUTING ANY ERRORS OR MISINTERPRETATIONS WHICH MAY
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APPEAR IN THE PRESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MILITARY SALES, JET AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2721908
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECOND GAO F-16 REPORT
TAGS: MASS, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/261c8ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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